

## Pope congratulates Bush

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul, keen for the Vatican to have a say in the search for Middle East peace, on Friday congratulated the United States on its success in bringing Arabs and Israelis to the negotiating table. U.S. President George Bush, on a brief visit to the Vatican at the end of a two day NATO summit, briefed the Pope on the Middle East peace conference which opened in Madrid under U.S. and Soviet sponsorship on Oct. 30. The 71-year-old Polish Pope complimented Mr. Baker, architect of the Madrid talks which brought Israel and all its Arab neighbours face to face for the first time. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Pope and Mr. Bush concentrated on the Middle East and Yugoslavia during private talks lasting over an hour in the positive study. "President Bush outlined to the holy father the steps taken and the perspectives opened (by the Madrid conference) for a stable, secure and just peace in the Middle East," he said.

Volume 16 Number 4850

AMMAN SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1991, JUMADEH AL OULA 3, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## German firm suspected of illegal arms sales to Iran, Iraq

RAVENSBURG, Germany (R) — German prosecutors said Friday they were investigating a firm suspected of illegally supplying arms-making equipment to Iran and Iraq. A spokesman for the public prosecutor in the Bavarian town of Ravensburg said the firm was suspected of delivering machine tools to both countries in 1989 that could be used to produce gun barrels. The deliveries went via Switzerland in contravention of German export laws, the prosecutor said. The firm's offices and those of an outside designer in Heilbronn were searched on Tuesday. Documents seized in the searches were being examined, the spokesman said. Neither firm was identified. One or two Swiss firms were also suspected of involvement and Swiss authorities were investigating, he said.

## Israeli envoy to France to resign

PARIS (R) — Israel's ambassador to France, Ovadia Sofer, said Friday he was leaving his post to seek a place on the ruling right-wing Likud party's list in next year's parliamentary elections. "I have received strong encouragement to start a political career from both Prime Minister (Yitzhak) Shamir and Foreign Minister (David) Levy," Mr. Sofer told the French Jewish radio stations Radio Communauté-Judaïque FM. Mr. Sofer, who makes no secret of his hawkish political views, has been ambassador to France since 1983. His long tenure has been criticised in the Israeli press which charges that his status as a Shamir protege made him "untrustable."

## Turkish police hold leftist squad

ANKARA (R) — Police have arrested six alleged members of a left-wing squad trained by guerrillas in Lebanon to kill senior Turkish officials, a senior security official said Friday. Anti-terrorist police teams arrested the six men during a series of operations launched on Oct. 12. They seized two automatic rifles, two pistols, ammunition and explosives, the official said. The group was trained in assassination techniques for eight months in a guerrilla camp in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, he added.

## IAEA: Iraq made nuclear tests but no bomb

VIENNA (R) — Iraq successfully tested key parts of a nuclear bomb just months before its invasion of Kuwait but could not have produced a complete weapon, U.N. nuclear experts said Friday. A spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed a report by British television on Thursday which said Iraq made 20 successful tests on key components of a bomb in the first five months of 1990. But he denied assertions by the Channel Four news programme that Iraq just had to put the system together to explode nuclear bomb. "They did make about 20 tests, but these are all small aspects, important, but on a very small scale, and they don't have the material on a scale large enough for a bomb," Hans Mayer said. The Channel Four programme quoted U.S. expert Stephen Bryen as saying he believed Baghdad still had the means to make a bomb despite U.N. efforts to destroy its nuclear potential following the Gulf war.

## U.N. to give \$15m in aid to Iraq

ROME (AP) — A U.N. agency said Thursday it will send Iraq \$15 million in food aid. The World Food Programme said the aid consisted of 27,200 metric tonnes of cereals, 3,400 metric tonnes of vegetable oil, and 1,100 metric tonnes of corn soya blend, and 915 metric tonnes of dried milk. The World Food Programme is a division of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Last month, FAO said many Iraqis were faced with malnutrition. The U.N. Security Council is trying to persuade Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion of oil.

## Obstacles face attempts to reshuffle government

By Nermene Mirraf  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Attempts by Prime Minister Taher Masri to reshuffle his government and avert a political crisis before the reconvening of Parliament in December appeared to run into hurdles Friday as the various proposals failed to provide the government with a stronger base in the Lower House.

According to government officials, Mr. Masri is not expected to reshuffle his government unless he can ensure a "solid 45 to 47 votes in any upcoming vote of confidence." The bargaining with the different parliamentary blocs has so far been unable to secure such a plurality and more realistic expectations continue to calculate a maximum of 43 votes in favour of the government.

So far a number of meetings between the prime minister and the 23-strong Muslim Brotherhood Bloc have only produced

promises of adopting "passive" opposition to the government in return for the premier's National parliamentary bloc's support for the reelection of Abdul Latif Arabyat as speaker of the Lower House.

The 18-member Constitution Bloc, on the other hand, has asked for six ministerial seats in addition to the government's support for their speaker candidate Thounan Hindawi, who is leader of the bloc. A source within the bloc, however, said his bloc was willing to bargain over the number of ministerial seats allotted the group if they were promised support for Mr. Hindawi's nomination.

To add to an already complex situation, the Democratic Bloc, which is the nucleus of a parliamentary representative of the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), as experienced splits in its positions towards Mr. Masri's government, as a result of administrative decisions

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## Maxwell to be buried in Jerusalem Sunday

TEL AVIV (AP) — The body of British publisher Robert Maxwell was flown here Friday for burial, but controversy continued to swirl around both his life and death.

In Spain, his widow cast doubt on an autopsy report saying Mr. Maxwell died of heart failure. In Australia, a self-described former Israeli intelligence agent levelled new charges that the publisher was involved in weapons sales to Iran.

Mr. Maxwell's corpse arrived on a private jet from the Canary Islands. The 68-year-old publisher's mangled body was found in the Atlantic Ocean off the Spanish island Tuesday after he disappeared from his yacht.

His widow, Elisabeth Maxwell, left the plane with her head down, wearing a dark blue hat and sun glasses. Reporters were kept away.

She was accompanied by her daughter, Ghislaine, and her

eldest son, Philip. The coffin, covered in a Jewish prayer shawl, was taken from the airport members of a Jewish burial society wearing skullcaps.

Mr. Maxwell, a Czechoslovak Jew, will be buried Sunday on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives. Jewish tradition holds that those buried on the sacred mount will be resurrected first when the Messiah comes.

Mr. Maxwell ran a troubled two billion media empire that included New York's Daily News, London's Daily Mirror and other British tabloids.

Spanish officials said Mr. Maxwell died a natural death, apparently of heart failure.

But before leaving the Canary Islands, Mrs. Maxwell suggested the autopsy performed on the publisher could not be regarded as the final word on his cause of death.

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## Hawatmeh arrives, says DFLP not against conference

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Secretary General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayef Hawatmeh arrived in Amman Friday as part of a tour in the countries of the region which will also take him to Morocco.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Hawatmeh said his visit to Jordan was aimed at coordinating Pan-Arab positions in order to restore Palestinian and Arab rights.

Mr. Hawatmeh, who arrived here from Damascus, said: "The Middle East region is on the threshold of a new era during

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## Israeli driver attacked

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians stabbed and strangled an Israeli taxi driver Friday then threw him from his cab near the West Bank town of Ramallah, the army command said.

The driver, identified only as a 40-year-old resident of Jerusalem, was treated for slight injuries to his face and hands at Hadassah Hospital in 'Ain Karim, an army spokesman said. Police and security forces chased after the hijacked cab and later found it abandoned, Israel Radio said.

The wounded man was found by Red Cross workers who happened to be passing, then handed over to soldiers at a junction outside Jerusalem, an army statement said.

Teh driver said two Arab passengers stabbed him in his face and hands with a small knife, tried to strangle him with a wire, then threw him from his cab, the spokesman added.

Also Friday, the Rehovot magistrate court extended by 15 days the detention of an Israeli suspected of selling guns to Arabs in the area of the West Bank city of Hebron, Israel Radio said.

The daily Haaretz said the man and an accomplice stole 10 rifles from a military base and sold them to Arabs.

### Settlement named city

Maaleh Adumim, the largest Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank, was officially designated a city a week before the Madrid peace talks, the newly-named mayor said Friday.

Mayor Amos Terman denied reports in the daily Yedioth Ahronoth that Dani Yatom, head of the army's central command, (Continued on page 5)

## Israel and allies shell villages in S. Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli and its militia allies bombarded villages in South Lebanon Friday, wounding at least three civilians.

Security sources said dozens of shells from Israeli and South Lebanon Army (SLA) artillery batteries hit villages just west of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in the south.

Israeli rockets destroyed a school for orphans and an office for Palestinians in two South Lebanon Palestinian refugee camps on Thursday, killing two civilians.

Israeli gunners fired more than 100 shells into a string of villages near the 15-km deep buffer zone Thursday and SLA militiamen blew up a suspected guerrilla base overnight.

The shelling began on Oct. 20 when Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) stepped up attacks on Israel in a bid to sabotage the opening of Middle East peace talks in Madrid.

Israel retaliated with six air strikes and by firing more than 1,250 shells out of the zone. It warned residents to curb guerrilla activity or risk greater violence.

Hezbollah guerrillas have killed six Israeli soldiers in the security zone in the last two and a half weeks.

A group calling itself

Hezbollah-Palestine released a picture Friday of an Israeli soldier it claims to hold.

The black-and-white passport photo of the soldier identified as Yaqoub Simenskai was accompanied by a statement from Hezbollah-Palestine.

The statement said the picture was released on a promise made in October, when the previously unheard of group provided the number of the soldier's military card.

A photocopy of what the group claims to be the soldier's identity and military papers were also attached to the statement delivered to Western news agencies in Beirut.

The Israeli army had nothing to add to a statement in October when it said a thorough investigation found "no soldier is missing answering to the published name."

At the time, military sources said the name and the serial number belonged to two different people and both were accounted for.

The identification cards handed out Friday were in Hebrew. The Arabic statement gave the soldier's military serial number as 4693737 and the identity card number as 28915395 that said Simenskai was born Oct. 2, 1971.

## Syria firm on progress before group talks with Israel, PLO says

By Jane Arraf  
Reuter

AMMAN — Syria and the Palestinians still want concessions from Israel before they will let Middle East peace talks go to the third stage, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Friday.

"The Syrians want substantial progress to be achieved in the bilateral talks on withdrawal, freezing of settlements and Palestinian 'self-determination' before they will attend multilateral regional talks," said Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO.

But although the observers do not dismiss the possibility of two or three extra votes in the government's favour, they also do not

## Palestinians expect tough Israeli stand, then ceding of territory

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP)

— Leaders in the Palestinian peace delegation said in interviews published Friday that they expected Israel to take a hardline stance in negotiations but to eventually cede control over land to Palestinians.

The daily Maariv reported, meanwhile, that the Palestinians have demanded a list of 23 confidence-building measures from Israel to move forward the peace process. The paper said Israeli sources denied the list was accurate.

Among the demands was freeing hundreds of prisoners jailed without trial, reopening closed universities, allowing display of the Palestinian flag and applying the Geneva conventions on treatment of civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Arafat accepted autonomy for the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip without the land itself, Mr. Hussein said.

"... We cannot welcome the normalisation of ties before having some progress on our problems," he said.

In the second stage, the main Arab delegations face Israel separately on the central questions — peace and borders. Multilateral talks are for discussion of broader secondary issues such as arms control and water rights. Syria wants Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights it seized in 1967 and is worried that attending talks on regional issues would imply normalisation of ties and weaken its bargaining position.

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"I think the (Israeli) delegation will stick to the line Shamir expressed in his speech," he said.

Mr. Shamir, in his address, repeatedly referred to Jews "right" to the "land of Israel," which Israeli right-wingers use to mean present-day Israel, plus the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said the basis of the Arab-Israeli conflict was "not territorial."

Faisal Hussein, who headed the delegation, also told Davar that the biggest success of the Madrid meeting was placing the Palestinians' right before the world.

He said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) shared the delegates view that "our chances of succeeding are better in the political way than in the military one."

Asked if the Palestinians would accept autonomy for the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip without the land itself, Mr. Hussein replied:

"Israel does not want to give us control over land and water sources in the framework of the interim agreement, but eventual-

ly they will give it to us."

Davar did not say where the interviews with Mr. Abdul Shafi and Mr. Hussein were conducted. They and the other members of the Palestinian delegation were expected to return from Jordan Sunday.

On Friday the Palestinian delegates were attacked by several radical mosque preachers who want to turn Israel and the occupied territories into an Islamic state.

Delegates Hanan Ashrawi, Dr. Nabil Qassis and Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem were attacked because they are Christians, and Dr. Abdul Shafi, a Muslim, was called an infidel.

At the Al Rawda Mosque in the West Bank city of Nablus, Sheikh Ahmad Haj Ali called the delegates "a group of atheists and seculars who have no linkage with Hizbullah Al Sharif."

Sheikh Haj Ali, 52, from a refugee camp in Nablus, was detained twice during the nearly four-year Palestinian uprising for belonging to the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

vices, be they local or Israeli, are behind this explosion."

Prime Minister Omar Karami also blamed the Jewish state, saying "Only Israel benefits from such a criminal attack."

The blast tore down more than one half of the two-storey college hall administration building and clock tower on its top facing the main gate to the sprawling campus overlooking the Mediterranean.

The library building across a lane from college hall was also devastated by the 3:40 a.m. (0140 GMT) thunderous blast that jolted thousands of Beirut residents in bed. Other buildings inside and outside the campus also sustained damage.

However, the attack was denounced by Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadallah, the mentor of Shiite factions operating in Lebanon.

"This explosion aims at shattering the prevailing state of security," Sheikh Fadallah said in his Friday prayers sermon.

"The fingers of intelligence ser-

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# Middle East News

## U.S. auditors to check how Israel spent \$400m

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. auditors are going to Israel to see how its government spent \$400 million in loans guaranteed by the United States to build housing for Soviet Jewish immigrants, officials said Thursday.

The team from the General Accounting Office (GAO), the agency which monitors how the government spends money appropriated by Congress, will also examine Israel's ability to repay its foreign debt, said a GAO official.

The auditors are being sent at the request of Sen. Robert Byrd, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Another official said the auditors will probably leave next week.

Mr. Byrd's office had no immediate comment.

Israel's request for guarantees to underwrite its borrowing from financial institutions has stirred controversy because of concern that the money would be used to build housing for Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The United States opposes Jewish settlement in the Palestinian lands, viewing them as obstacles to peace.

Israel denies using the guarantees for housing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli embassy spokeswoman Ruth Yaron said any GAO team going to Israel would receive "full cooperation."

Israel has received an unprecedented wave of Soviet immigrants — nearly 400,000 over the past two years — and as many as one million may come in the next few years, Israelis expect.

The Israeli government has asked for an additional \$10 billion in U.S. guarantees for housing.

McDonnell Aircraft Company,

## U.S. not planning quick sale of jets to Saudis — officials

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration is not planning any quick sales of warplanes to the Middle East despite a report that Saudi Arabia has requested F-15 fighters from McDonnell Douglas Corp., administration officials say.

Such a sale, which could be worth more than \$4 billion to McDonnell Douglas, would have to be formally proposed by the White House and approved by Congress before it could become official.

The administration sought the delay to avoid antagonizing the Arabs as peace talks were getting underway.

The Arabs were pleased with the delay, viewing it as a departure from the traditional U.S. bias towards Israel and as a commitment to a more evenhanded policy. That, in turn, enhanced U.S. credibility as a mediator in the talks which got under way last week in Madrid.

The officials said any additional sales of U.S. military equipment to the Middle East, including the Arab states in the Gulf, were unlikely while the budding Middle East peace process was in its current phase.

The peace process, which brought Israeli and Arab representatives together in Madrid for the first time last week, could go on for years and the administration officials did not make clear what they meant by the "current phase."

But any proposal for such a sale of sophisticated jets to an Arab state at the current time would be sure to raise strong objections from congressional supporters of Israel.

The administration officials declined to say whether President George Bush planned to offer additional arms to the Saudis and other friendly Arab states next year.

McDonnell Aircraft Company,

## Afghan rebel team says Moscow holds key to peace

ISLAMABAD (R) — An Afghan guerrilla delegation due to visit the Soviet Union said Friday that the key to peace in Afghanistan lay with Moscow.

"I do believe that after the defeat of the Soviets in Afghanistan and the defeat of communism in Soviet Russia and the changes in the world, our negotiations with the Soviets will be constructive, important and effective," guerrilla leader Burhanuddin Rabbani said.

But unless the Soviet Union came up with new proposals to end 13 years of war in Afghanistan, the talks would come to nothing, he told a news conference before leaving for Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union.

He declined to say what prop-

osed the 11-man delegation would take to Moscow or whether they would have a list of Soviet prisoners still held by the Mujahedeen guerrillas more than two years after the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan.

The prisoners are one of the main concerns of the Soviet government, which would like them treated as a humanitarian issue rather than as pawns in the political negotiations. Moscow believes 60 to 80 prisoners may still be alive.

In September the Soviet Union and the United States agreed to halt weapons supplies to the Afghans by Jan. 1. The United States says it has already stopped deliveries.

The guerrilla delegation, reportedly delayed by wrangling

among the divided Mujahedeen leadership over who should go and what proposals to take, will arrive in Moscow on Sunday after a two-day pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia.

They are due to have talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. No time limit has been set for the talks.

Three hardline guerrilla groups, including the powerful Hezb-i-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, refused to join the delegation, despite heavy pressure from Pakistan.

Mr. Rabbani told reporters the Mujahedeen had no intention of negotiating the creation of a transitional government with the Soviet Union, saying that was for the Afghans alone.

Mr. Rabbani said he believed an absolute majority of Afghans backed talks with the Soviet Union, which the guerrilla groups argue still controls events in Kabul.

With the exception of a "handful of criminals," Mr. Rabbani said there were many people in Kabul, including people in government, who would be acceptable to the Mujahedeen.

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## RJ inaugurates new route

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The national airline, Royal Jordanian (RJ), has launched the Amman-Toronto route at the rate of one weekly flight and said that the new route was bound to bolster Jordanian-Canadian relations and boost Jordanian tourism.

An RJ statement said that the opening of the Amman-Toronto route, which took place Thursday in cooperation with Air Canada, marks one more step in expanding the national airline's routes to various corners of the world.

The new route manifests the revival of the national airline's activities which witnessed stagnation and recession during the Gulf crisis.

RJ Chief Executive Officer Husam Abu Ghazaleh has said that RJ, which sustained heavy losses as a result of the Gulf crisis, was now returning to normal and increasing its volume.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh, who last May estimated RJ's losses from the Gulf crisis at \$100 million, said that the airline's operations are gaining momentum. RJ officials cited the opening of the Amman-Beirut and later the Amman-Colombo routes in the summer as signs of improvement in the airline's world-wide operations.

The new route will also help stimulate trade exchanges between Canada and Jordan and contribute towards bringing in more tourist groups and marketing Jordan abroad, especially as Toronto has a large community of Arab descent, an official said.

The official said that the maiden flight along the new route was launched on a Tristar aircraft. At present, the flights will be made on Thursday's but a Monday flight might be added in the spring.

The official said that the decision to operate the Amman-Toronto route came after due studies and research on the part of the national airline.

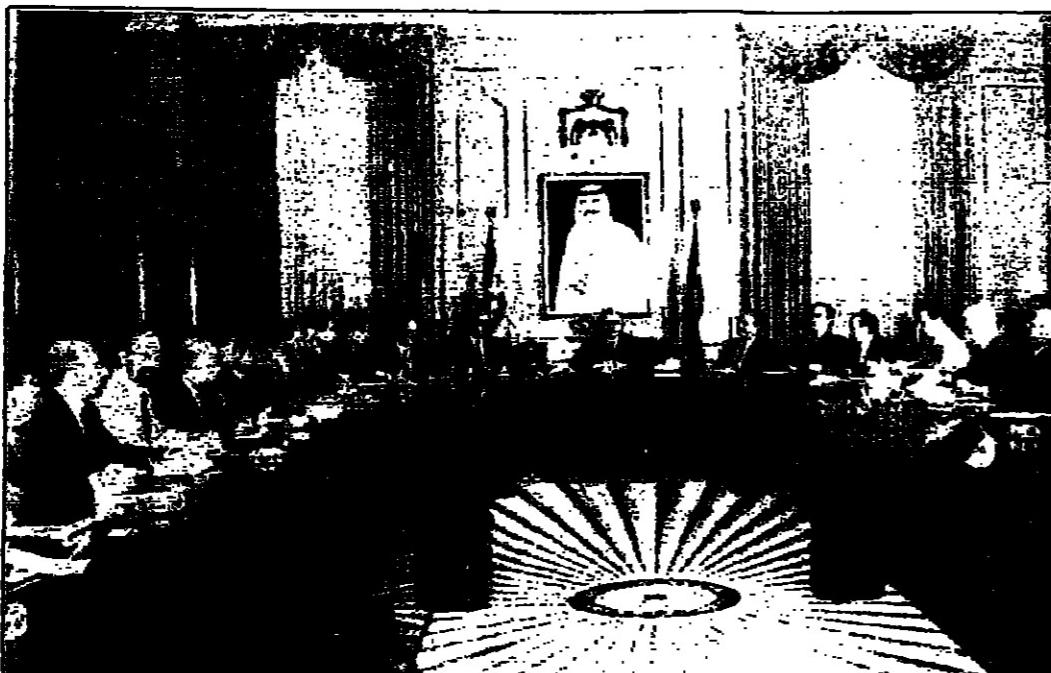
Mr. Abu Ghazaleh, leading a group of senior RJ officials, was in Toronto to receive the first flight and welcome the passengers. A team of representatives of the Jordanian travel and tourist offices from Jordan were also present at the airport.

RJ's maiden flight to Toronto coincided with a report from Indonesia that RJ was elected vice chairman at a conference by Ministers of Communication and Postal Services in the countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) which is underway in the city of Bandung.

Addressing the conference, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Ali Suleiman presented a number of working papers dealing with Jordan's endeavours in transport and communications fields with Arab and Islamic countries.

The conference, the second of its kind by OIC countries, was discussing a host of issues related to boosting communications among Islamic nations.

Mr. Suleiman is accompanied by heads of ministry departments responsible for postal and communications services including RJ.



GATHERING OF PEACE-SEEKERS: His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received at the Royal Court members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Madrid Peace Conference, and members of the Palestinian advisory committee, which accompanied the delegation to Madrid. King Hussein praised the unique performance of the joint delegation at the Madrid peace conference, noting that it won the Palestinian and Arab causes international support. The King called for further enhancing of Palestinian-Jordanian coordination and stressed the importance of preparing

for the bilateral and multilateral talks. The King also exchanged views with members of the joint delegation and the advisory committee on a number of issues of mutual concern. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Taher Masri, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh, the King's military secretary Prince Tala Ben Mohammad and Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif.

## Race promoting tourism begins

By Aleen Bannayan  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

**AMMAN** — "Ruta Los Nabateos '91," a six-day desert safari on four-wheel drives, set out from Amman Friday morning and will follow the desert highways to reach Aqaba Thursday, Nov. 14.

Organised by a local tourism company in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Royal Jordanian Airlines, the desert safari will be transmitted live on Spanish television by crews covering the event throughout its many stages.

All but one of the 27 participating teams have come from Spain. The aim of the safari is to acquaint the Spanish people with the archaeological and touristic sites in Jordan as well as to promote tourism in Jordan.

The team of Randa Al Nabelsi and Najwa Al Hasan will represent Jordan in a four-wheel drive Toyota pick-up.

Many other Jordanians would have participated, but it seems not much information was available and the event was not publicised enough.

"I'm taking part because I like auto sports and the adventure that goes with it, but I find the idea of only our team representing Jordan a bit strange," Randa Al Nabelsi told the Jordan Times.

The route of the safari will take the participants from Amman to Aqaba via Al Azraq, the Dead Sea, Karak, Petra, Moudawara and Wadi Rum.

The participants will spend a day at the Dead Sea and two nights in Petra and will camp along the way before concluding their safari in Aqaba.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* Iraqi art exhibition at the Phoenix Gallery of Art and Culture, Gardens Street.
- \* Exhibition entitled "The Arab Traditional House, Selected Items of our Heritage" by Hama Saeq Burhan at Baladna Gallery, Gardens Street.
- \* Photography exhibition by Adeeb Atwan at the British Council.
- \* Exhibition entitled "Graphic Arts of the 60s" (from the Federal Republic of Germany) at the Abdil Hamid Shousha Foundation gallery (open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.).
- \* Exhibition of photos by Thierry Girard at the French Cultural Centre.
- \* Exhibition of traditional embroidery and handmade items at the Marriott Hotel.
- \* Exhibition of paintings depicting scenes from Aqaba and Jordan by Jordanian artist Kamal Shahabi Yassin at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- \* Exhibition by Iraqi artist Samira Abdil Wahab at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### FILM

- \* German film entitled "Ende einer Dienstfahrt" at the Goethe Institute — 8 p.m.

## French, Jordanian doctors exchange knowledge, expertise

By Ica Wahbeh  
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

**AMMAN** — A scientific event, the first of its kind in Jordan, brought together French and Jordanian doctors who, for two days, last week exchanged knowledge and the latest advances in the field of paediatrics and neonatology.

Organised by the Jordanian-French Medical Association, the two-day conference tackled child nutrition, renal, metabolic and renal diseases and care for mothers during the antenatal and neonatal period as well as monitoring pregnancies.

At a press conference held at the end of the parley, Professor J. Milliez, head of the French-Jordanian Medical Association, said that the choice of the theme for the conference — paediatrics — was not accidental, it was, besides a medical choice, a political one as well. "Separated by war, we decided to meet and discuss children, rebuild relations with the (Jordanian) Arab people. This was an occasion."

Dr. Fathieh Sandi, head of the Jordanian-French Medical Association, added: "Children make up 50 per cent of the population. They are the most vulnerable part of the society, our future. Children are a priority in any country. There is still a lot to do for children healthwise, but also socially, by educating parents, enhancing their awareness of dangers to children."

She said that the conference was successful in that more than 200 doctors participated in the talks and it was the first time a group of French doctors came to Jordan to impart their knowledge.

The novelty of the papers was represented in topics touching on AIDS in infants, vaccination against hepatitis — which has just started in Jordan and is aimed at becoming a comprehensive practice throughout the Kingdom — new aspects of the lymphatic syndrome in renal diseases and the study of the possibility of expanding programmes for screening of the motor development and of the visual or hearing defects in children.

The organisers of the conference expressed satisfaction with the high scientific level and quality of exchanges.

"The first conclusion (we reached) is that the conference has met all the expectation we put in it. This is encouraging for the future when we aim at organising long-range scientific exchanges," said Prof. Milliez.

Earlier in the day, Her Majesty Queen Noor received at Al Ma'wa Palace representatives of the association. The Queen reviewed the significant progress Jordan has made in recent decades in the fields of child and mother care.

The Queen highlighted the conditions of women and children of poor families in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis and said they are the primary victims of political, socio-economic and environmental tragedies.

Discussions during the meeting also focused on the importance of adopting an integrated approach encompassing health care whereby the physical, emotional, mental, political and socio-economic needs of individuals are addressed simultaneously to achieve maximum quality of life improvement.

The Queen cited the model Quality of Life Project, which the Nour Al Hussein Foundation is currently implementing in cooperation with the World Health Organisation, as a successful integrated development project which is based on health development priorities.

Prof. Milliez said the conference had set the pace for scientific collaboration and the association will continue to plan for joint activities which will benefit both the Jordanian and the French side.

### Local Short Term Consultant Diagnostic Evaluation in UNRWA Schools

UNRWA Headquarters Branch, Amman-School Education Division - is seeking for a consultant to work during a period of 2 months in development and production of "Diagnostic Tests" for the lower elementary level in the Arabic language.

The incumbent will work under the supervision of the Chief School Education Division and as part of a team of specialists in lower elementary, Arabic and remedial education.

#### Qualifications:

The candidates should have:

- A post-graduate teaching in education with some specialisation in evaluation or primary education.
  - Experience in the design and development of tests, specially educational diagnostic instruments an asset.
  - Fluency in Arabic necessary but all candidates with above mentioned qualifications are welcomed to apply.
- Remuneration for the period of contract will be JD 1,000

Applications should reach our office by Nov. 17, 1991

Address: Head of Administration

P.O.Box 484,  
UNRWA Headquarters Branch,  
Amman - Jordan

## UNRWA issues annual report, cites need for additional donations

Special from Vienna

**IN HIS** annual report to the United Nations General Assembly issued in New York on Nov. 4, the commissioner-general of UNRWA — the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Iler Turkmen, called on all potential donors for assistance so that UNRWA can continue providing essential services to the rapidly growing refugee community.

Continued financial support for UNRWA's programmes is essential to the lives and welfare of the refugee population, the commissioner-general emphasized. "Broadening the agency's donor base is therefore a major priority," he said.

Mr. Turkmen described the effects of the Gulf crisis on UNRWA activities. Following a lengthy curfew in the West Bank and Gaza, UNRWA distributed food to the entire refugee population and to needy non-refugees. Loss of earnings and remittances from the Gulf, reduction of domestic and export revenue and increased security measures dramatically aggravated unemployment and weakened still further the Palestinian economy in the West Bank and Gaza." Mr. Turkmen said. UNRWA's response has been to expand its income-generating activities and step up job creation through its own construction programme.

Mr. Turkmen expressed his hope that "Palestinians would share in the benefits of the general improvement of the situation in Lebanon," he said. But, he warned, UNRWA is currently faced with high unemployment among the refugees and lack of housing for up to 4,000 squatter families displaced by returning owners.

Between August 1990 and March 1991, "approximately 250,000 persons holding Jordanian passports arrived in Jordan, of whom the majority were of Palestinian origin." As a result, Mr. Turkmen explained, increased needs for education,

health, housing and employment are strongly felt by UNRWA.

Throughout a difficult year, Mr. Turkmen reported that UNRWA improved its first aid and basic life-support services in West Bank and Gaza during the reporting period. But refugee health needs outweigh UNRWA's resources. A high birth rate, high unemployment and sporadic violence mean overcrowding at health facilities, delays for patients and long working hours for UNRWA employees.

The demands on UNRWA's relief programme were stronger than ever this year, especially in the occupied territory where over 13 per cent of Gazan refugees were receiving direct relief. UNRWA provided financial aid, improvements on shelter and food and clothing to a growing number of needy refugees. But, as the commissioner-general explained, UNRWA is to provide not only relief but some job opportunities. To this end, social services were expanded for which the agency is in need of funds.

Mr. Turkmen welcomed the beginning of peace talks in Madrid and said that he hoped that the process now underway would lead in due course to a just and lasting settlement of the refugee problem and the Palestinian question as a whole.

## Virus spread by whitefly responsible for crop damage, report concludes

By Nidal M. Ibrahim  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

**AMMAN** — The primary cause of the failure of the 1990-91 tomato crop in the Jordan Valley region was the outbreak of a virus that was carried by the whitefly, a government report has found.

A British team of experts hired by the government of Jordan to determine the cause of the crop failure determined that the outbreak of Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus (TYLCV) damaged and incapacitated the crops in the Jordan Valley region.

The report directly contradicts the claim of farmers in the area that the crop failure had been caused by the use of polluted water from the King Talal Dam.

"Although the irrigation water comes from a catchment receiving industrial waste, the mission was given no pathological evidence to support speculation that heavy metal toxicity had damaged the crops," the report stated.

"The whitefly itself is new to Jordan," he continued. "We didn't have the disease or the whitefly but with the introduction

of the whitefly, the disease began to occur."

The disease causes mottling and curling of the leaves, he said, resulting in the plant becoming smaller in size and incapable of producing normal fruits. The disease itself, he added, is eliminated when temperatures cool and the plant may recover to once again become viable.

But the continued presence of the whitefly, especially during the extended summers of the last four or five years, allows the disease to flourish again.

"The fly tries to feed upon the tomato," he said. "If it feeds on an infected tomato plant ... it acquires the virus. So when it flies to another virus-free plant, it feeds upon it and while feeding transmits the virus."

Insecticide-spraying campaigns being conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture are trying to eradicate the fly without much success, Dr. Abu Gharbieh said.

In another finding, the British team found that the high

## Architectural designs of Arab cities to be studied at seminar

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Working papers dealing with architectural studies on Aqaba, Salt and Irbid will be among a total of 11 working papers to be reviewed at a seminar on Jordanian cities due to open today.

The exhibition comprises three wings covering designs of architectural projects prepared by consultancy firms, universities and other organisations, photographs of Jordanian cities and amateur architectural work. The exhibition also displays posters and photographs of architectural work.

The history of Arab cities in general and means of developing modern Arab cities will also be discussed by seminar participants which is being held in the course of week-long activities organised by the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) at the Professional Association Complex.

Coinciding with the seminar, which opens Saturday, groups of engineers will take part in a competition which entails going out to various parts of the country to collect information about architectural designs in Jordan.

As part of the initial activities, Prime Minister Taher Maari Thursday opened an exhibition displaying different facets of Arab and Islamic architecture.

Among the measures, cultivation of crops in the past summer season was curtailed and water from Al Hammeh Springs in northern Jordan were pumped to feed the King Abdullah Canal, whose water is used to irrigate farmlands in the valley, said Dr.

At the same time, the JVA has been drilling artesian wells whose water has been fed into the main canal in the valley.

## CONSULTANT'S SERVICES NEEDED

The services of a professional consultant in Agricultural Policy and Strategy Development with emphasis on research and technology transfer are needed on a part time basis for twelve (12) months. Applicants must have an M.Sc. degree, at least fifteen (15) years of experience and preferably held responsible senior positions in formulating policy and strategy for agricultural development at the national level.

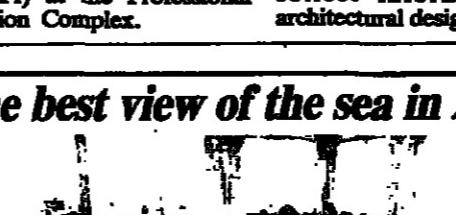
Interested candidates who believe they are qualified to provide these services may apply in writing by submitting a recent biographical data and salary history in English to the Administrative Assistant at:

### National Agricultural Development Project Technical Assistance and Services Office

National Centre for Agricultural Research & Technology Transfer  
Baqa' - Amman - Jordan  
Telephone No. 72541112  
Fax No. 726099

Applications must be delivered by hand by 14:00 on Saturday, November 16th, 1991.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141/4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## Dilemma of government

**PRIME MINISTER** Tamer Masri is not to be envied. While he prepares himself for the convening of the Lower House of Parliament's third ordinary session he is racing against time to secure a majority of 41 votes for his government by December 5. Last month, while the House was in recess, 49 deputies out of 80 called on him to resign, even though, as it turned out, they had different reasons for doing so. By Dec. 5 their reasons will still be there. So a repeat of last month's "convenience of interest" might still persist and force the government out of office. To avert this Mr. Masri is currently going into a political fight to ensure a continuation of his mandate and the realisation of his newly-acquired vision, the transformation and modernisation of Jordan's institutions. After all the appointment of Mr. Masri as prime minister was understood to have meant the introduction of new blood and new concepts into the Kingdom's politics. But that vision could not be achieved, of course, without the consent and the cooperation of existing institutions. And Parliament is proving itself to have become a powerful institution. Short of dissolving it, we have to live with it, get its consent and cooperation and look at it, albeit with some scepticism, as the guardian of democracy. We have to do that because many House deputies are vying for power and power alone. They have formed blocs, only one of which is based on ideology, the Muslim Brotherhood. Being the largest bloc in the House, the Brotherhood knows that it can through alliances bring the government down. Yet the bloc knows also very well that, given the difficult circumstances in the region and the Brotherhood's declared position on the peace process, it cannot secure its power, at least not at the present stage. The other blocs, the independent Islamists, the Constitutionalists, the Nationalists and Democrats are not all after power, but many of their members are. Apart from the Democrats, themselves divided, the other blocs have no problem with the Masri government's declared positions, especially on the peace process. The Democrats are split on the peace negotiations. On other issues they, like the others, have no alternative, as one of them has said recently. One other area of contention among the blocs is the seat of House speaker, also coming up Dec. 5. Each of the blocs has a candidate. So there we are: 80 deputies eyeing 25 cabinet posts at the government house on Fourth Circle and one seat at the House itself — in Abdali.

So what choices does Mr. Masri have? He can either form a government that is completely parliamentarian, or one which is all non-parliamentarian or a mixed one. Either choice has its advantages and disadvantages. One danger is to appoint deputies in posts that require technocrats or require people who know more about their field of work than all deputies put together do. Some deputies, it is well known, aspire to posts they cannot handle. This is when democracy equals mediocracy. We hope it does not come to that. But if it does, it will be part of the legacy that Tamer Masri and his generation of young politicians inherit.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**AI RAT** Arabic daily Friday voiced appreciation of the efforts exerted by the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, but it said that the real battle has not yet begun and it requires ample preparations and hard work. The paper said the delegation should arm itself with vast information about the Arab-Israeli situation and be ready for the coming campaign to ensure the return or Arab rights in the Arab homeland. We are not trying to belittle what has already been achieved, said the paper, but we try to warn against underestimating the enemy's desire to carry out manoeuvres to abort the peace process. The paper said that national unity is required now more than ever before and full backing for negotiators is essential at this crucial stage so that the country can achieve success in its national endeavours. The negotiation process is long and difficult and the start of the peace process in Madrid can never mean that peace is in sight, the paper said. Our initial successes in Madrid, said the paper, serve as an incentive for the negotiators to work harder, and the public to offer them full support and assistance, added the paper. The paper said national unity remains one of the main elements for any success, especially under the present circumstances.

**SAWT AL SHAAB** daily tackled the question of continued Israeli aggression on Lebanon, accusing the Israelis of being determined to abort the peace process at any cost. The paper said that the Shamir government has never harboured the idea of having peace with the Arab countries and for this reason it is trying to provoke the Arab countries into abandoning the peace process. By building settlements and maintaining aggression on Arab states, Israel is showing the world its true evil intentions of achieving Zionism's ambitious designs and fulfilling the dream of a greater Israel at the expense of the Arab lands, said the daily. The Shamir government is hoping that the Arabs would get fed up and withdraw from the peace process leaving the field to the Israelis to perpetuate their occupation of Arab lands, it said. The paper said that the Shamir government, faced with the initial Arab successes at the Madrid peace conference, seems to be trying to find a way to abort the peace process and deny the Arab's initial successes. What is needed now, said the paper, is full awareness and vigilance on the part of the Arab negotiators, especially the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, as the next stage of the peace negotiations about to begin.

## Palestinians in Lebanon — a dwindling foothold

By Rosemary Sayigh

HABITANTS of Shatila camp for 25 years, Abu Qasim and his family left after the intra-Fatah battle of May and June 1988. Veteran of the Amal sieges, he was disgusted by this episode. Now he lives with his wife and four children on the 12th floor of a walk-up building full of displaced people. He refused to take money from any of the resistance groups, preferring to work as a day labourer and keep his independence. His children are in UNRWA schools.

He shows me extensive scarring above the knee. In the Beirut area, if a man does not belong to a pro-Syrian group he is considered an "Arafatist." Informed against by the dissidents, he was picked up and beaten so badly by the Syrians that he had to be treated in hospital. A Palestinian to whom I express shock at Abu Qasim's story tells me, "I see dozens of cases like his every week."

Every family here has its bleak chronicle: Umm Mahmoud looks after a family of eleven: five children, four grandchildren, and her disabled husband. Their home in Shatila is destroyed. The two older daughters, both widows, are looking for work; the sewing factory that employed them shut down because of the Gulf war. On the walls are the photos of three sons killed in the Amal sieges.

Umm Mahmoud shows me pictures of their three-storey home and small grocery store. There is a tree-shaded courtyard and rugs hanging from the balconies. A bride and bridegroom cut a lacey wedding cake. Now they are in a small, dark flat, lent them by a

relative; but they are luckier than most families in Gaza Building, who are without running water, electricity or private lavatories.

Nowhere in the diaspora have Palestinians suffered as much as in Lebanon. There are women I lack the courage to meet, mothers who have lost all their children. "Nahni Sha'b Man-kub," says Abu Qasim, we are a people doomed to disaster. Abu Mujahid compares Palestinians in Lebanon to women who have many children, all of whom die in infancy. He is not optimistic about the future.

### Insecurity

Since the Sabra and Shatila massacre, Palestinians have been the target of arrests, detentions, beatings and killings. Attackers have varied, depending on the period and location: the Lebanese Forces, the SLA, Amal, the Lebanese army, the Syrian army and pro-Syrian resistance groups. Roadblocks are the most usual sites of aggression. Since 1988, a great many men from the Beirut area have spent time in Mezze Prison near Damascus (600 of them were released in March this year). There is no systematic monitoring of such violations.

The restoration of Lebanese army control to the camps, a basic strand in the government's Palestinian policy, cannot but arouse foreboding. People remember the repression of the 60s installed by President Chehab, the battles of 1969, 1973 and 1975-6. In 1982-83 Mr. Gemayel's army pursued a campaign of mass arrests in the Beirut camps, while special units pursued individuals. Later, in May 1985, when Amal

launched its first attack against Sabra and Shatila, the army brokered a ceasefire to separate the two sides, then helped Amal to regain lost positions. During the Sidon battle, around 500 Palestinians were arrested at army checkpoints on the Sidon-Beirut road (most were students going to take exams, others were fleeing the battle). After the ceasefire, Lebanese army commanders are reported to have told their adversaries, "you Palestinians caused the break-up of the Lebanese army. Now we shall rebuild our army on your blood."

Fear of vengeance is not lessened by the integration into the army of several thousand Lebanese Forces and Amal militiamen. On the agenda of the PLO's talks with the Lebanese government initiated last April was a proposal that the camps should be patrolled by mixed Lebanese-Arab-Palestinian units. This is likely to be energetically rejected by the army.

### Displacement and homelessness

A recent partial survey carried out by PARD (Popular Aid for Relief and Development), a Palestinian NGO set up in 1985 to help those displaced during the Amal-Palestinian battles) found a total of 4,468 homeless families scattered over 87 makeshift locations. More than three quarters have been displaced twice or more, 20 per cent three times or more. An UNRWA register of families whose home had been destroyed has passed 7,000. The "Battle of the Camps" (1985-7) was a particularly destructive episode for the inhabitants of Sabra, Shatila, Burj Al

Barajna and Rashidiya. Many inhabitants of these camps have not been able to return, or have not dared to. These swell the numbers of people from camps destroyed in other wars — Nabariya, Dibaya, Jisr Al Basha, Tall Al Zatar. An estimate of the displaced in West Beirut is 20,000, but there are other shanty-towns around Ain Al-Hilwa and Nahr Al Barid. Yet others are scattered along the coast between Beirut and Sidon, and in the Beqaa. Conditions in most displacement locations are below the line, in camps concentrated in the camps, UNRWA and other social services may be hard to reach.

What will happen to these people? According to Taif, all those displaced by war will return to their original homes. As "stabilisation" proceeds, Palestinians will be ordered to leave the occupied buildings and empty land which have been "home" for many since the early '70s. Already some families have received notices to quit. The problem is where to go? No new camp sites have been set up since the mid-'80s, in spite of natural population increase; five have been razed by war. Low-income families cannot afford to buy or rent at current prices, pushed up by inflation and a building shortage.

Under the resistance, Palestinians starved for space spread into waste land around camp sites. No more. On July 17 police accompanied by bulldozers came to reclaim land on the edge of Mar Elias camp, which had been used by UNICEF as a children's playground. Similar recoveries are expected to follow in other areas.

### Employment, income and living standards

Always precarious, the material survival of Palestinians in Lebanon is threatened by a combination of old and new constraints. Classified by law as "foreigners," holders of Palestinian ID cards need work permits; these may be refused, are costly and have to be renewed yearly. Depending on the government's mood, the law can be stretched to cover small shopkeepers, craftsmen, even barrow-vendors. Palestinian workers are also required by law contribute 18 per cent of their salary to a social security fund from which they cannot benefit. The reconstruction of the state means that these rules will be applied with renewed vigour.

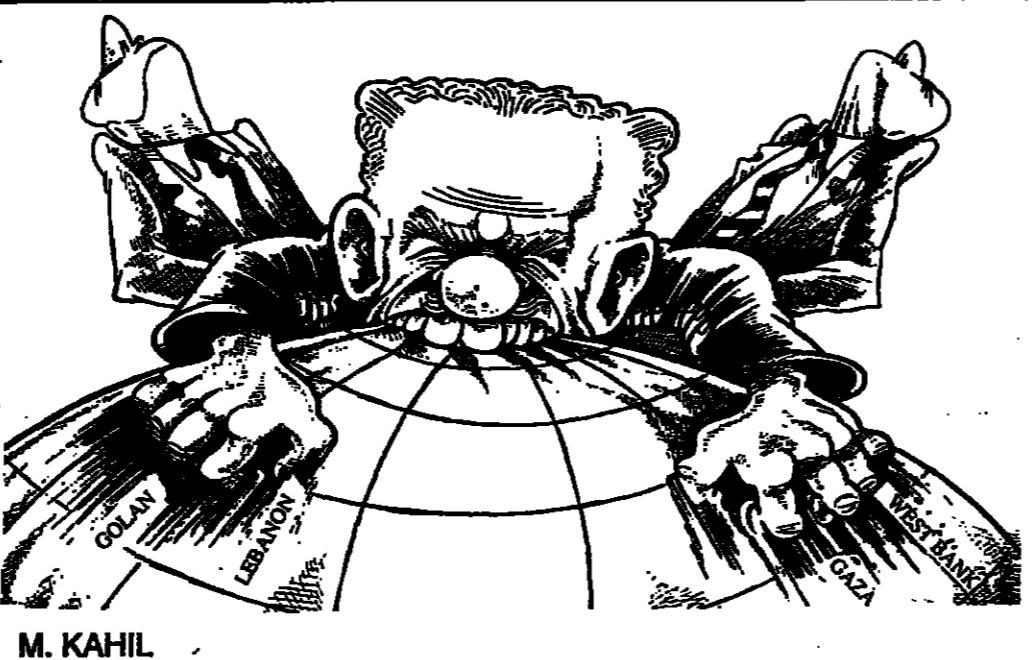
In the '70s, Palestinian income and living standards rose as a result of remittance, higher technical skills, and the growth of an alternative Palestinian economy based on the resistance. This brief "golden age" was sharply reversed by the 1982 invasion, bringing heavy human and material losses and the end of many PLO jobs and benefits. With the Lebanese economy practically closed to Palestinian labour, and migration to the Gulf sharply reduced, unemployment was widespread until the return of the resistance in 1985.

Other factors since 1982 have contributed to lowering living standards: steep inflation linked to the Lebanese economic crisis; losses from further rounds of fighting; cuts in aid and services. The Gulf war has also affected Palestinians in Lebanon, through

loss of jobs and remittances. Families without salaried workers, dependent upon aid, are particularly vulnerable.

Some ideas of the extent of near destitution is given by the figure of UNRWA's "hardship cases": 3,636 families comprising 34,000 individuals as of March 1991. To appreciate this figure, one needs to know first, that there is a ceiling on the total sum available, second that to qualify, the family head should be dead, handicapped, over 60, or an under-age orphan; the family should have no son over 18; and its monthly income should not exceed \$90. According to Taif, a social worker, 60 per cent of Palestinians in Lebanon are currently living below the U.N. poverty line. If people are not visibly starving, it is because of free accommodation and the fact that the resistance still provides a minimal safety net.

The impact of the Taif process on Palestinian employment will become clearer in the next few months. In April, the PLO asked that its 10,000 fighters in south Lebanon be reorganised into a PLA unit under Lebanese army command. There were some signs of Syrian support for this proposal. Now, with Lebanese-PLO negotiations frozen, and the Lebanese army encouraged by its victory in Sidon, it is likely that all Palestinian demands — military, political and civic — will be ignored. If the eventual outcome is demobilisation of most resistance fighters and cadres, without compensatory investment in Palestinian workshops and training, the situation will become much more serious — Middle East International.



## Annexing 13% of West Bank keeps most settlers in Israel

By Jon Immanuel

AT least 70 per cent of Israelis living in West Bank could be brought within Israel's borders without moving them an inch, by annexing just 13 per cent of the West Bank with an Arab population under 50,000, according to most recent population figures.

In the most concentrated area of settlement, almost one-third of the entire Jewish population of the West Bank lives on 4 per cent of the land, among fewer than 25,000 of the West Bank's 800,000 Palestinians.

These statistics are drawn from an examination of Jewish and Arab population figures, dating from June, obtained from the Council of Settlements and the Civil Administration in the West Bank. They suggest that Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank are not inextricably meshed, making separation of the West Bank from Israel impossible, but that Israel does have a decisive demographic hold on specific areas.

The 13 per cent land area includes six separate regions contiguous to the pre-1967 border, with more than 40 settlements. It encompasses all but two of the 10 largest settlements. Control over this area would, for topographical reasons, increase access to the main aquifers which are found beneath the coastal side of the territories.

The are around Rosh Ha'ayin, where settlement is most intensive, is especially convenient for drilling and provides relatively cheap water, a spokesman for Mekorot, the national water carrier, said.

Lack of access to this area would drive up water costs to Palestinians, adding to the toughness of negotiations over the area, but also providing a reason for mutual concessions.

Since most of the government's building activity is currently taking place within these six areas,

the figures indicate that, despite its declared determination to eventually settle the Land of Israel, it is concentrating on consolidating certain parts.

Although well over half the area of the West Bank has been bought or declared state land, more than 80 per cent will remain unsettled or contain only small, isolated settlements as the government heads into the first stage of peace talks.

Area 1 includes Ariel and has 32,000 Jewish inhabitants in 220 square kilometres.

Area 2 surrounds Area 1, and has about 3,000 Israelis on about 250 square kilometres.

Area 3 includes Gush Etzion, with 5,000 on 100 square kilometres.

Area 4, Ma'alot Adumin, 15,000 on 70 square kilometres.

Area 5, Givat Ze'ev, 6,000 on 50 square kilometres.

Area 6 around Latrun has about 5,000 Israelis on 90 square kilometres.

This totals 66,000 people on 780 square kilometres. In addition, several of the 14 new settlements on the Green Line about these areas and will eventually expand into them. The total area of the West Bank is almost 6,000 square kilometres and the highest estimated number of Jewish residents is 85,000-100,000.

Two other areas — eight settlements south of Hebron (200 square kilometres) and three west of Jenin (40 square kilometres) — can be linked easily to Israel without annexing virtually any Arab villages. They add little to the Jewish population, but would require annexation of an additional 4 per cent of the land.

The Jordan Valley with its 25 settlements (some 17 per cent of the West Bank) of sparsely populated territory would add little Jewish population, but the northern section could be sliced off if the intention is to keep as many Israelis as possible where they are, while still leaving close to 80 per cent of the land for a possible

— The Jerusalem Post.

Palestinian state. These nine areas include more than 76 of the approximately 130 settlements.

About 35 very small settlements — some of them the most ideologically committed to an integral Land of Israel, like Kiryat Arba (pop. 5,500), Jewish neighbourhoods in Hebron, Elon Moreh near Nablus, and Eli, Shilo and Ofra, north of Ramallah — could not be incorporated within Israel's borders without annexing a much larger amount of the territories and a sizable Arab population.

The heartland of Jewish settlement in the West Bank is bordered by Ariel, Kedumim, Alfei Menashe and Oranit. It occupied 4 per cent of the territory, includes at least 32 per cent of the Jewish population in the West Bank and, in Barkan, has the largest industrial park in the coming stage.

A columnist in Al Raki, Bader Abdul Haq, criticised the United States for refraining from imposing its will on the Israelis to force them to abandon the Arab lands. The writer said that when Washington says it cannot impose solutions on the Israelis and the Arabs, it is offering Mr. Shamir a free hand and hardening his position at the negotiations. Such an attitude, Abdul Haq said, gives rise to questions about the real intentions of the U.S. administration and its plans for the Middle East region in the coming stage.

A columnist in Al Dustour said that the peace conference does not mean capitulation to the enemy because, in order to achieve peace, the Arabs and the Israelis sooner or later have to sit and talk. Mousa Kilani said a recent survey showed that 96 per cent of the Jordanian citizens are for the conference and they bless the bid to achieve peace.

He said that under the new and continued developments on the world scene, the Arabs should not remain passive and allow Israel to have a free hand in the occupied territories.

Sawt Al Shaab urged Presidents George Bush and Gorbachev to interfere in the second stage of the peace conference and put an end to the arrogance of the Shamir government.

Should the Israeli prime minister be allowed to have his way, he would abort the whole peace process through his intransigent position and through his determination to foil Arab attempts to regain

their rights, it said.

Al Raki daily supported this view in a commentary and said that Israel should not be allowed to pursue its provocation of Arab countries and should be stopped from continuing its aggression on Lebanon, meant at achieving that aim and force the Arabs to withdraw from the peace conference.

The writer said that the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, which was supported by the Palestine National Council and the PLO, can be the best solution for any problem facing the peace conference and putting an end to Israel's procrastinations in withdrawing from Arab lands.

The paper said that Mr. Shamir's actions constituted a serious challenge to Washington and Moscow which are supporting the peace parity.

According to Hosni Ayesh, a columnist in Al Raki, Mousa Kilani said that Prime Minister Tamer Masri will be advised to hold consultations with all the parliamentary blocs before embarking on a wide-base restitute which, he said, should see members of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Constitutional Bloc entering the government.

In the view of columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, initial sessions at the Madrid meeting and his attitude proved to the world that his government was not

## Kuwaiti women want promised political role

By Ghada Al Sawi  
Reuter

**KUWAIT** — Many Kuwaiti women are dynamic, highly-educated and successful in business. Spurning the stereotype of tuckered away Muslim wives, they are pressing for a bigger political voice.

They say their vital role in resisting Iraq's seven-month occupation of their homeland has earned them the right to be part of political life.

Kuwaiti women are by law unable to become ministers or vote. The highest ranking women are assistant under-secretaries. They cannot be diplomats, judges or prosecutors.

"If our constitution ensures justice, freedom, and equality to all citizens ... it is unjust to deprive women of their right to vote and be elected," said Rasha Al Sabah, a member of the royal family and assistant director of Kuwait University.

### Syria firm on progress

(Continued from page 1)  
Egypt attended the Middle East peace conference in Madrid last week as an observer.

It is in contact with the parties to the talks, and with the PLO, to set the place and date for a second round of direct talks between Israel and each of Syria, Lebanon and the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation.

Arab diplomats said PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas was expected in Cairo Saturday to prepare for a visit next week by Mr. Arafat, his second in three weeks.

The foreign ministers of Egypt,

"I don't think women in this country will get their political rights before the coming century," she said.

Many women were out on the streets resisting Iraq's occupation when some men were hiding at home, she added.

Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah promised to give women more political say when he was in exile in Saudi Arabia during the Iraqi occupation last year.

"It seems everybody forgot these promises," said Ms. Rasha.

The emir has praised Kuwaiti women for their "strength, endurance and ability to bear all kinds of mistreatment and difficulties" during the occupation.

The government has asked the national assembly to debate women's right to vote. It will in turn make recommendations to the new parliament which is due to be elected next year.

A dynamic and outspoken woman, Rasha Al Sabah broke

away from the strict Islamic norms of her country to become the first and only Kuwaiti woman to run a diwaniyah, a traditional venue where men meet to discuss politics and business.

At one of her weekly Monday night diwaniyahs, women and men engaged in heated debates on Women's role in Kuwaiti society.

A psychology professor at Kuwait University, Qasem Al Sarraf, said Kuwaiti women had proved they were equal to men through their active resistance to the Iraqi occupation.

"Kuwaiti women have proved they are not less than men in any thing, especially during the occupation, that's why they must have their right to vote and be elected," he said.

But member of parliament Saqer Al Anzy disagreed. "Women should have a right to vote, but not to be elected."

"It is not the right time," he added, but did not say why.

But Kuwait's early start in oil

production in the 1940s and its part of a growing elite forging new paths in this conservative Islamic state revolutionised by oil wealth.

As in other traditional Islamic societies unrelated men and women rarely mix, women rarely smoke in public and arranged marriages are still common.

But Kuwaiti women, freed from household chores by their country's tremendous oil wealth which enables them to hire maids, are clamouring for work and education.

Even Kuwait's firefighting team tackling oil wells set alight by Iraqi troops has a woman working alongside the men.

Such ambitions would have been difficult to realise here only a few years ago and still are in most Gulf Arab states.

In neighbouring Saudi Arabia a fundamentalist strain of Islam bars women from driving and segregates the sexes.

But Kuwait's early start in oil

don't mean to compete with men, but to participate in rebuilding the country," said Najema Al Kharafi, a psychology professor.

"It is not fair to take our traditions as an excuse not to give women their rights ... all of us are citizens on this land and our rights were ensured by our constitution," she said.

Women in executive positions say they face no problems from men working for them but complain of discrimination by the state.

Rasha Al Sabah said two thirds of the students enrolled at Kuwait University were women.

Many say they are eager to take part in rebuilding their country, the infrastructure of which was destroyed by Iraq's invasion.

"When women ask for their right to vote and be elected they

## Hawatmeh: DFLP does not oppose

(Continued from page 1)

which we hope a genuine and comprehensive peace will be achieved, to guarantee the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Hawatmeh voiced the DFLP's support for the Middle East peace process and categorically denied that it opposed the Middle East peace conference which opened in Madrid on Oct. 30.

"We are advocates of peace and want to actively participate in the peace process, provided that all Palestinians be represented and that such representation be coordinated with Arab countries," he said.

Israel should stop its settlement activity in the occupied territories "so that negotiations will not end

up by the loss of Palestinian soil," he said.

He said he expected the second round of talks between Arab and Israeli delegations to be strenuous and extremely difficult, and called on the Arabs to reconsider their calculations and draw serious plans to push for a just, comprehensive and balanced peace.

He reiterated that the Palestinian uprising was the strongest weapon for the Palestinians and called for supporting it and enhancing national unity. He also called for placing the issue of the Palestinian refugees high on the agenda of the forthcoming round of talks between the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and Israel.

## Bomb rips through heart of AUB

(Continued from page 1)

aggression. It is an attack on Lebanon, an attack on the coming generations and the children of Lebanon," Mr. Khatib said.

"We have determined from investigations that the explosion was caused by a car bomb," he said. "The explosive-laden green olive Volkswagen van entered campus from the western gate."

A security source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the culprits "broke" the iron gate on the western fence and drove their vehicle to campus. They couldn't have done that in daytime when streets are crowded.

"Had the bomb went off during schools hours, when administration offices and the library are usually packed, the casualty toll could have been much higher. It could have been a massacre," he said.

The car bomb was the first in the capital since March 29 when four people were killed and 22 wounded in the northern suburb of Antelias.

The bombers struck on the anniversary of the founding by American missionaries of the oldest English-language university in the Middle East. AUB has no direct connections to the U.S. government but it has been the symbolic centre of Washington's influence in Lebanon since it opened on Nov. 8, 1866.

Classes for AUB's 5,000 students were cancelled till Monday.

The blast broke almost every window of the 50 buildings on the three-lined campus, set in 28 hectares of ground, and of those in nearby streets.

### Israeli driver attacked in W. Bank

(Continued from page 1)

had signed the proper papers on condition that the move not be published at a sensitive time.

Mr. Tertman said Ma'ale Adumim was made a city on Oct. 24, adding there was no publicity because the ceremony marking the change would not take place for at least another two months.

Ma'ale Adumim, which has a population of about 16,000, is the first settlement to be designated a city in the occupied territories.

Settler leaders say 112,000 Jews now live in 142 settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

### Maxwell to be buried in Jerusalem

(Continued from page 1)

"Unfortunately, the autopsy is totally provisional," she said. "It takes much more than two days to arrive at any conclusion that is of any value."

She said suicide was out of the question.

The London newspaper The Independent said Friday there was growing evidence Mr. Maxwell suffocated to death. It said Mr. Maxwell suffered from pulmonary edema, also known as water on the lungs, and had been unable to shake off a heavy cold.

Chief coroner Carlos Lopez said the Spanish autopsy will not be finished until next week when laboratory tests on samples from Mr. Maxwell's body have been returned.

Investigating Judge Luis Gutierrez said Wednesday preliminary findings showed Mr. Maxwell died of natural causes before apparently falling off the yacht. He said Mr. Maxwell did not drown.

The death certificate listed heart failure as the cause of death, according to the British consulate.

Meanwhile, onetime Israeli intelligence employee Avi Ben-Menashe said Friday that Mr. Maxwell was a conduit for arms sales to Iran and that many people wanted to keep him quiet.

### Cabinet reshuffle faces obstacles

(Continued from page 1)

disregard the possibility that some members of the Constitution Bloc, which has no popular political or ideological base, would remain committed to their bloc's decision if they were excluded from the reshuffle.

Constitution Bloc leaders dismiss these fears by the government on the grounds that they have a "unified" position and will stand by their agreement with the government and work on allaying suspicions about their intentions.

"I think a judgement can only be made through open dialogue over these points and through the real test of reaching agreement," said a senior source from the Constitution Bloc.

### Mr. Ben-Menashe, a key

source for investigative reporter Seymour Hersh's recent book "The Samson Option," said in an interview in Sydney, Australia, that Mr. Maxwell worked for the Israeli government and "was very close to the Israeli prime minister's office."

Israeli leaders have mourned Mr. Maxwell as a great friend of Israel. He reportedly invested \$300 million in the Jewish state, was active in Jewish immigration issues and had close ties with Israeli leaders.

The funeral was expected to be attended by President Chaim Herzog, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres, head of the opposition Labour Party.

Mirror group newspapers in London said Mr. Maxwell's body will lie in state for an hour on Sunday before being buried on the Mount of Olives.

The Israeli daily Ma'ariv, in which Mr. Maxwell had a majority share, said eulogies will be delivered by Mr. Herzog, the publisher's son Philip, and Rabbi She'ar Yashuv Cohen, chief rabbi of Haifa and an old friend of Mr. Maxwell.

Memorial services for Mr. Maxwell are due to be held later in London and New York but no details have yet been announced.

### AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

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# Sports

## S. Africa accepts invitation to Barcelona Olympics

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's Springboks leaped back into the Olympic arena with the announcement that they would compete in next year's summer games.

Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the National Olympic Committee to South Africa (NOCSA), said his committee had decided to accept an invitation to go to Barcelona, signalling the end of 32 years of isolation enforced by the republic's apartheid policies.

"I am happy to say that the executive committee to NOCSA has decided unanimously to send a team to the Barcelona Olympics," Ramsamy said to cheers from the audience.

South Africa last took part in an Olympics in Rome in 1960, with an all-white team, and was expelled from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) 10 years later because of its race segregation policies.

It was re-admitted to the IOC in July as a reward for President F.W. de Klerk's decision to scrap apartheid and the Olympic guardians then invited South Africa to send a team to Barcelona — an invitation which was accepted Wednesday.

"This is the first time that South Africa has competed in the Olympic Games. Before... only a section of South Africa did," Ramsamy told a news conference.

He unveiled a flag of red, green and blue stripes on a grey di-

## 'Magic' Johnson has AIDS virus, retires

INGLEWOOD, California (R) — One of the United States' best-known athletes, basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson, has announced that he had the AIDS virus and was retiring from the game.

The news, which Johnson revealed in cool, matter-of-fact tones at a news conference, stunned the United States from the top echelons of the sports world to neighbourhood basketball courts.

"Because of the HIV virus that I have attained, I will have to retire from the (Los Angeles) Lakers today," said Johnson, 32, whose combination of size and agility on the court and personal charm made him one of the most popular U.S. sports figures.

"I just want to make clear that I do not have the AIDS disease, I have the HIV virus," said Johnson, his 2.06-metre (6-foot-9) frame towering over the microphones.

He said his wife had tested negative for the HIV virus, which causes AIDS.

"I plan on going on, living for a long time, buggering you guys," he told reporters at the packed news conference.

Johnson, who found out he had the virus Wednesday afternoon, said he would campaign for "safe sex" practices, which can

stop the virus.

His doctors, Michael Mellman,

said it was unclear how Johnson,

named to the 1992 U.S. Olympic basketball team to compete in Barcelona, Spain, and contracted the virus.

"Sometimes we think only gay people can get it, it can't happen to me. Here I am saying it can happen, even to Magic Johnson," Johnson said, looking composed and relaxed.

Hundreds of young fans, many of them crying, milled around the entrance to the great western forum, home of the Lakers in the Los Angeles suburb of Inglewood.

"This is absolutely the most horrible news. This is the most horrible thing that has happened to the Lakers and I have followed them since I was little kid," a fan said, choking back tears.

A woman, also in tears, said: "I am in shock. It's like he is my son."

Lakers owner Jerry Buss said: "This comes as a terrible shock to us. It is devastating."

Just before the tip-off at a New York Knicks game at Madison Square Garden, Knicks coach Pat Riley, Johnson's former coach in Los Angeles, asked the crowd to stand in a moment of silence in support of Johnson.

Johnson, one of the National Basketball Association's greatest players ever, led the Lakers to five championships during his 12-year professional career. He was voted the league's Most Valuable Player three times.

Johnson was an unprecedented player, combining the grace and skills of a play-making guard with the size and power of a forward or centre.

He was the best-known celebrity since actor Rock Hudson to acknowledge having tested positive for the AIDS virus.

Johnson missed the Lakers' first three games of this season due to what the team called dehydration and fatigue caused by influenza. He learned he had the



Earvin 'Magic' Johnson

virus after taking a blood test in connection with a life insurance policy.

AIDS — acquired immune deficiency syndrome — gradually strips the body of its defences against disease. There is no known cure but medicines can delay for years the onset of symptoms after a person has been infected with HIV — the human immunodeficiency virus.

With his wide smile and his popularity stretching from the sports elite to inner city slums, Johnson earned millions of dollars for commercial endorsements.

Johnson was married for the first time in September, to college sweetheart Earlietta Kelly, 32, at

his parents' church in Lansing, Michigan.

"I just want to say that I will miss playing and I will become a spokesman for the HIV virus for the young people so they will practice safe sex, because sometimes are a little naive and they think it can't happen to them," he said.

"This is not like my life is over. I'm going to live a long time. This is another challenge, another chapter in my life. It's like your back is against the wall and you just have to come out swinging. And that's what I'm going to do."

"I'm going to go on. I'm going to beat it and I'm going to have fun," he said, concluding his statement.

## Red Star avoid Benfica as UEFA launches new soccer format

GENEVA (R) — Holders Red Star Belgrade avoided past champions Benfica as UEFA launched their new-look, eight-team "semifinals" for the European Cup Friday.

Red Star, who must play all matches outside Yugoslavia because of the conflict at home, start with a tough away match against Italy's Sampdoria in the inaugural league series.

Anderlecht of Belgium, who have won every European club competition except the European Cup, and 1971 finalists Panathinaikos of Greece complete Group A.

Portugal's Benfica, who last won in 1962, were the only ex-champions apart from Red Star in the draw.

The 1988 and 1990 losing finalists must travel to the Soviet Union for their first match, against Dynamo Kiev.

A Kiev official joked after the draw that the team would have to steal back Sergei Yuran, a striker they sold to Benfica in July, just for the match.

Spanish champions Barcelona and Sparta Prague of Czechoslovakia are the other teams in Group B. The winners of each group in the new league format will contest the final.

The opening matches will be played on Nov. 27.

UEFA President Lennart Johansson said he was sure UEFA had chosen a winning formula for the European Cup.

"I'm convinced, I think it has everything. It's dramatic in the draw and we've ended up with the eight best teams," Johansson said after the draw. "It's a clever idea. I can say that because it wasn't mine."

Barcelona team official

Frances Ventura agreed, saying his team was "very satisfied" with the group.

"We agree with the new system because it's very competitive and it fits into our seasonal calendar very precisely. It's very positive for Barcelona and the other teams," he said.

Sampdoria President Paolo Mantovani was yet to be convinced. "We have no idea what the interest would be," he said. "We can't say if this is good or bad, we shall have to wait."

English hopefuls Liverpool, four times winners of the European Cup, were drawn away to Swarovski Tirol of Austria for their third round first-leg UEFA Cup tie.

It will be the third encounter between English and Austrian teams this season — Tottenham Hotspur have already beaten Sparkasse Stockerau in the Cup Winners' Cup while Arsenal saw off Austria Vienna before losing to Benfica.

Portuguese

## Jordan Valley Arabian Stud

**On The Occasion Of His Majesty King Hussein's Birthday**

- The Jordan Valley Arabian Stud was officially opened Friday 8.11.1991.
- The club offers activities in the fields of riding, archery and basic polo lessons.
- Special attention will be for long and cross country riding.
- Discount rates will be offered to members of the Armed Forces, and Royal Jordanian employees.
- Videos about riding can be borrowed free from the library of the club.
- The opening was free for the public and was attended by a crowd interested in these activities.

**Jordan Valley Arabian Stud**  
Near Queen Alia Airport and 4 kilometres from the entrance to Jiza village.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
©1991 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦J109 ♦763 ♠AQ83 ♣76

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

A.—Although your spade suit is rather anemic and your diamond support robust, don't suppress a four-card major if you can show it at the one-level—even playing four-card minor. Respond one spade.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦J109 ♦Q95 ♠K942 ♣Q72

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ 1 ♠ ?

What action do you take?

A.—You have eight points, almost all "quacks" (queens and jacks), and a balanced hand. Unless partner can keep the bidding open, this hand is going nowhere. Pass, to see what the auction develops.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K76 ♦A276 ♠A3 ♣AK94

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What action do you bid now?

A.—With all prima cards not even a raise to four hearts fully expresses the value of your hand. We suggest the advance cue-bid of three diamonds, to be followed by heart support at your next turn to clarify your strength.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦AKQJ52 ♠A Q952 ♣63

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

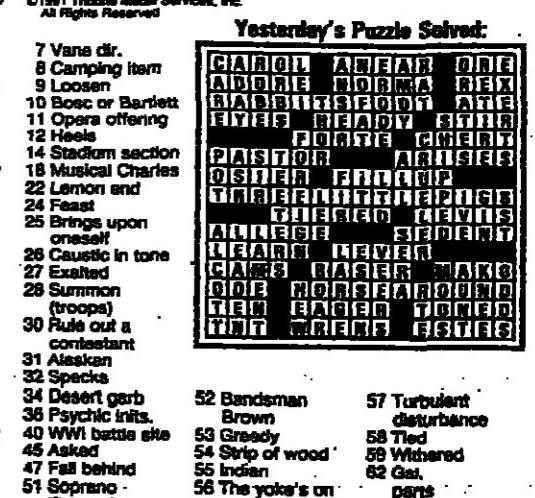
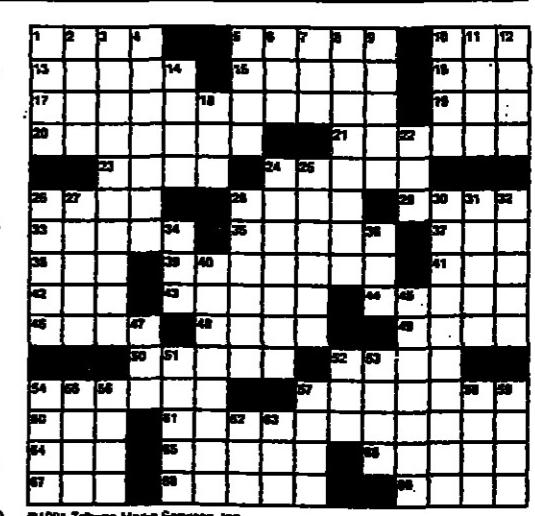
1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—If a five-card majorite tells you that a rebid of two spades now promises a six-card suit and that you have to rebid two no trump despite the fact that you lack a diamond stopper, dismiss such advice. Any bid other than two spades is unthinkable.

## THE Daily Crossword

by Bernard Moran



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1991  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer. Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have a good chance now to combine every detail that is important to you in both conventional and up-to-date matters so you can gain a whole new perspective and awareness.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Now you can go straight to those who have what you want and let them know what you do.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Confer quickly with that person able to give you the facts and figures that you want and let him see you are able to act quickly and not drag conversations.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is the moment for you to seek out those persons you would like to have in your days ahead and to let them know how you'd make them a loyal, good ally.

MONS CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You now find that whatever means must to you requires the approval and the approval pattern of regular folks who you associate with.

SCORPIO: (February 20 to March 20). Whatever you would like to do does bring you more abundance is excellent now so early contact those of a practical turn of mind and get their help.

TODAY'S child: If your child were born today she or he is very much concerned with having everything on a sound and proper basis. This is a very good chart for having to do with understanding products that appeal to the spending power of children. A strong interest in the performing arts and music in general is indicated.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

gotten down to actual meeting of minds. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are now in a position to work things out and get it done swiftly for the aspects indicate quick results from tackling present projects.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make a point to see every spare moment to get off to the recesses that bring you solace and the peace that refreshes and renews a right spirit within you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is your moment to actually show that you are the one who does what the good will and active alliance of those who dwell beneath same roof as yourself.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 18) Whatever must be done to you should be concentrated upon and the approval pattern of regular folks who you associate with.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20). Whatever you would like to do does bring you more abundance is excellent now so early contact those of a practical turn of mind and get their help.

TODAY'S child: If your child were born today she or he is very much concerned with having everything on a sound and proper basis. This is a very good chart for having to do with understanding products that appeal to the spending power of children. A strong interest in the performing arts and music in general is indicated.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

On The Occasion Of His Majesty King Hussein's Birthday

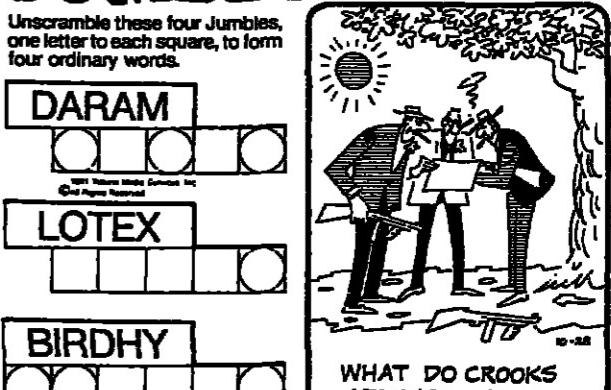
HARRIS  
II-2



"Your horoscope says today is a very bad day to read your horoscope."

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME  
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



**Financial Markets** **Jordanian**  
in co-operation with  
**Cairo Amman Bank**



U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 6/11/91	TOKYO CLOSE Date 7/11/91
Sterling Pound*	1.7755	1.7765
Deutsche Mark	1.6363	1.6361
Swiss Franc	1.4470	1.4471
French Franc	5.5940	5.5963*
Japanese Yen	129.88	129.93
European Currency Unit	1.2505	1.2495*

\* USD Per STG  
\*\* European Opening @ 8:30 a.m. GMT

Interbank Interest Rates Date: 7/11/91

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.87	4.93	4.93	5.12
Sterling Pound	10.31	10.18	10.06	10.00
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.37	9.37	9.37
Swiss Franc	7.66	8.06	8.12	8.06
French Franc	9.12	9.25	9.25	9.31
Japanese Yen	6.25	6.15	5.87	5.82
European Currency Unit	9.43	9.68	9.81	9.87

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Previous Metals Date: 7/11/91

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	355.50	6.80	Silver	4.09	.089

\* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 7/11/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6830	0.6850
Sterling Pound	1.2129	1.2190
Deutsche Mark	0.4174	0.4195
Swiss Franc	0.4720	0.4744
French Franc	0.1221	0.1227
Japanese Yen*	0.5256	0.5282
Dutch Guilder	0.3704	0.3723
Swedish Krona	0.1143	0.1149
Italian Lira*	0.0557	0.0560
Belgian Franc	0.02026	0.02036

\* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 7/11/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7620	1.7910
Lebanese Lira*	0.0773	0.0780
Saudi Riyal	0.7818	0.7824
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	0.7850	0.7860
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7480	1.7570
UAE Dirham	0.1850	0.1860
Greek Drachma*	0.4553	0.4593
Cypriot Pound	1.4830	1.5020

\* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market\*

Index	5/11/91	Close	6/11/91	Close
All-Share	124.33	124.30		
Banking Sector	704.99	704.80		
Insurance Sector	126.16	126.03		
Industry Sector	153.81	153.91		
Services Sector	131.92	132.78		

December 31, 1990 = 100

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7635/45	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1235/40	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
	1.6460/70	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
	1.8533/43	French francs	Italian lire
	1.4530/37	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns
	33.83/87	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns
	5.6140/90	U.S. dollars	
	1236/1237		
	130.15/16		
	6.0080/0130		
	6.4500/50		
	6.3780/3830		
One ounce of gold	353.20/353.60		

**CONCORD**  
Cinema Tel: 677420  
Adel Imam in SHAMS AL ZANATI (Arabic)  
Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.  
**Nabil Al Mashini Theatre**  
Tel: 675571  
**'SOMERSAULT TIME' PLAY**  
Starring 'Abu Awwad Family'  
After the great success it achieved  
continues its shows daily  
at 8:30 p.m.  
Please buy your tickets in advance

## Morocco aims to wipe out deficits, make dirham convertible by 1993

RABAT (R) — Morocco plans to make its currency convertible by 1993 following substantial economic restructuring over the last eight years, Finance Minister Mohammed Berrada told parliament.

Opening a debate on next year's budget, Mr. Berrada said the cost of servicing the foreign debt, estimated by the World Bank at \$22 billion in 1988, had fallen from a peak of 12.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) to 8.1 per cent thanks to rescheduling.

He did not give a current figure for GDP.

He predicted "the end of the (debt) rescheduling cycle and convertibility of our currency (the dirham) by 1993," and an "elimination of the treasury deficit" by the same year.

He said "large-scale adjust-

ment and restructuring programme," carried out since 1983 at the behest of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, had enabled the treasury deficit to be cut from 11 to three per cent of GDP.

In the eight-year period, the current account deficit of the balance of payments was also slashed, from 13 to three per cent of GDP, and foreign exchange reserves rose "from an insignificant level to more than three months of imports."

The trade deficit was reduced from 5.2 to 3.9 per cent, largely thanks to a surge in sales of manufactured goods from 4.3 to 6.2 per cent of total exports.

Mr. Berrada said per capita GDP had almost doubled, new investments increased five-fold, unemployment cut from 18 to 16

per cent and inflation reduced from eleven to seven per cent.

Average growth over the eight years was 4.6 per cent. Although it fell to 2.6 per cent last year, he predicted it would rise again this year to 4.2 per cent thanks to "an excellent cereal harvest." This year's crop was a record 8.5 million tonnes.

He said substantial progress was achieved despite heavy defence spending and investments in Western Sahara where Polisario guerrillas have been fighting Morocco for independence since 1976. Oil exports say more than \$1 billion has been pumped into the disputed territory over 15 years.

Outlining next year's budget, he said some taxes would be increased and state spending on education would increase by 21 per cent, on health by 31 per cent and on housing by 18.3 per cent.

A press summary of the survey said the comparable rent for London was \$3,420 and for Paris \$1,400.

The price for a business lunch in Stockholm was given at \$182 compared with \$81 for a similar lunch in Madrid.

A comparison of business travel costs in Europe listed London on top with \$660 for a "typical" overnight stay, more than twice the \$300 to be spent in Amsterdam. The calculation includes a single hotel room, lunch for two, dinner for one and taxi fare to and from the airport.

A medical checkup in Frankfurt cost \$120 and \$20 in Sydney, according to the survey. It gave the monthly salary of a bilingual secretary in Geneva as \$3,470, compared to \$2,105 in London and less than \$2,000 in Madrid, Brussels or Dublin.

It was a combination of procedural disgust, substantive unhappiness and personal vendettas," said Karen Shaw, banking analyst at the Institute for Strategic Development.

As the bill turned partisan, several sides said Democrats did not want to risk voting for a bank bill when they knew bank failures are certain to rise next year, leaving them open to blame.

Regulators predict up to 239 bank failures next year, the highest since the Great Depression, up from 137 this year.

The federal bank insurance fund, which covers customer deposits in failed banks, will run out of money any day now. It is seeking \$70 billion loan to continue clearing and selling off failed banks.

The programme cuts affect less than five per cent of the division's projected sales, and were not expected to be a major setback in the unit's bid to return to profitability in 1992.

He told a conference on the future of the civil aviation in Asia-Pacific region will continue to provide excellent growth opportunities.

"I definitely expect the Asian carriers will have double average growth rate of the industry as a whole in the coming years," Mr. Satch said.

The unit had losses of more than \$400 million in 1989 and 1990. Boeing had aimed to pare the losses this year and position the unit to reach profitability by the end of the year.

Swiss study compares rents, wages and other expenses in key cities

GENEVA (AP) — Rents are highest in Tokyo, a secretary earns most in Geneva and the most expensive business lunch is to be found in Stockholm, according to a cost-comparing survey by a Swiss company.

The rent for an unfurnished, two-bedroom apartment was \$6,025 per month in Tokyo,

according to the survey conducted in September for the Geneva-based Interlink Business Research Inc.

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The latest draft was tabled Monday. Parliament, dominated by members of the former ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) has already rejected two government drafts of other laws — one on price deregulation and one on a new electoral law.

Mr. Laoussine said the measures could bring \$14 billion in new foreign investment.

He predicted that, based on an oil price of between \$20 and \$25 a barrel, export revenues would rise by \$2.5 to \$3 billion a year by 1996 and \$6 to \$8 billion by the year 2000.

This would be in addition to the \$6 to \$7 billion expected in coming months from foreign oil companies in return for their share in production.

Algeria's foreign debt is put at \$25 billion, much of it short term. Current servicing and repayments take up to 75 per cent of its foreign income — the vast majority earned from gas and oil exports.

Output from existing oilfields totals some 30 million tonnes a year. But recovery rates are said to be only 20 per cent because of outdated technology and poor

## Algerian energy minister defends new oil bill

ALGIERS (

## Yugoslav Armed Forces set up rockets, EC sanctions announced

BELGRADE (R) — The Serbian Yugoslav army said on Friday it had set up missiles on launch pads and selected targets as battles raged in Croatia and the European Community (EC) announced sanctions against Yugoslavia.

In their toughest warning to Croatia since fighting erupted four months ago, the Yugoslav Armed Forces told the rebel republic it risked massive casualties and ecological disaster to itself and Europe if it attacked federal missile bases.

The navy imposed a blockade on six Croatian ports and made clear it would fire on any vessel that tried to break through.

"A certain number of rockets are on the launch ramps and ready for action on selected ground targets," the air force and Air Defence Command said in a statement.

"Suicidal attacks by Ustashe (Croatian) fighters on air defence units threaten not only themselves but even people in a wider region of Central Europe."

The air force said it had set charges on fuel supplies and stored missiles to prevent Croatian forces seizing them.

It said Croatian forces had attacked missile bases in the

breakaway republic and indicated it had bio-chemical weapons it previously denied possessing.

The federal forces have been backing Serbs in Croatia since they took up arms to oppose the republic's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia last June.

Fresh fighting erupted Friday. Fighter jets fired rockets at several Croatian targets, the port of Dubrovnik came under sporadic artillery fire and mortar and artillery battles raged in the centre of the republic, Croatian radio said.

In Rome, the European Community clamped wide-ranging economic sanctions on Yugoslavia and asked the United Nations Security Council to impose an oil embargo, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek said.

Croatia says more than 2,500 Croats have been killed in the conflict. An unknown number of Serbs and federal soldiers have been killed.

Fighting has increased in Croatia this week, with the air force stepping up strikes from Croatia's Adriatic coast to the eastern border with Serbia, its traditional arch-rival.

On Friday, the heaviest battles appeared to be in towns around Nova Gorica in central Croatia near the closed Zagreb-Belgrade

"The basic elements of (EC) proposals... aimed at a comprehensive political solution of the crisis have not been supported by all parties," said Mr. Van Den Broek, whose country currently holds the EC presidency.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said economic measures could have only a limited effect on the warring parties.

"We are not pretending this is going to bring about peace in Yugoslavia tomorrow," he said.

The sanctions are intended particularly to hit Serbia, the only one of the six republics that has not accepted an EC plan to group them in a looser alliance which Serbia says spells the end of the Yugoslav state of 23.5 million people.

Western military experts said the federal forces have four Frog-7 surface-to-surface missiles and SAM-6, SAM-7, SAM-9 and SAM-13 missiles.

Although many of the army's weapons are outdated and intended for defence, one diplomat said: "This is an act of great political irresponsibility."

Davor Domazet, a spokesman for the Croatian National Guard, said the army wanted to intimidate Europe more than Croatia.

"This is just a psychological threat. It is directed less towards Croatia than towards Europe because of the sanctions it may take against Serbia," he said.

Mr. Domazet said the National Guard had been sent a copy of the army statement Thursday night.

Motorway. The navy said it had reimposed blockades at Dubrovnik, Split, Zadar, Rijeka and Ploce because Croatia had not lifted blockades of federal military bases on its soil.

The Yugoslav Armed Forces,

which total about 180,000 personnel, outnumber and outgun the Croatian militias but say they have not yet unleashed their full might.

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But the 16 leaders clashed behind closed doors on the Soviet Union, with French President Francois Mitterrand accusing the allies of adopting a hectoring tone and doing too little to prevent a disintegration of the Soviet state, officials said.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez also urged support for a central authority, they said.

France dissociated itself from a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) statement which urged all Soviet authorities to respect international law and meet arms control and human rights commitments.

A French official said Mr. Mitterrand told the allies "he feels the statement... takes far too high a moral tone. He feels much more should be done to support President (Mikhail) Gorbachev for a future joint European defence force taking orders from the European Community (EC)."

The summit adopted a new military strategy but the final declaration omitted all mention of proposals by the United States, Britain and the Netherlands for a wider world role for NATO in the post-cold war era.

Meeting on the fringes of the summit, European Community Foreign Ministers slapped economic sanctions Yugoslavia and called on the U.N. Security Council to impose an oil embargo.

The worsening civil war between Serbia and Croatia demonstrated the limitations of NATO and the 12-nation EC in handling political and security problems in Eastern Europe.

Mrs. Marcos had been trying to arrange a meeting of the three squabbling presidential contenders to patch up their feuds and boost opposition chances in the May polls, political analysts said.

A Nationalists faction headed by Mr. Laurel sealed the party's break-up by expelling its secretary-general, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, and Central Committee member Eduardo Cojuangco plus five others for alleged disloyalty.

Sen. Enrile and Mr. Cojuangco, associates of the late President Ferdinand Marcos before he was ousted in 1986, had been fighting Mr. Laurel for the party's nomination as presidential candidate.

Mrs. Marcos toured refugee camps for Philippine volcano victims Friday, giving away auto-graphed sacks of rice and saying her late husband would have had the camp built better and faster.

Mr. Marcos, who is facing tax evasion and corruption charges for allegedly helping her husband plunder the economy during his 20-year rule, has said she has no political ambitions. But she has also hinted she could change her mind.

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